

III. REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-38 are pending in the present application. Claims 39-64 are withdrawn. Claims 7 and 26 are canceled; claims 1 and 20 are amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Support for Claim Amendments

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 20 is found in paragraph [0074] and in Table 1 row 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Miura (US 7,246,329) in view of Kirlyay (US 6,249,606) in further view of Bauersfeld (US 5,917,491). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 20 now recite “wherein a first pointer operation is pointer-over and wherein a first selectable operation mode corresponding to the first pointer operation is activating a menu button.” In other words, the configuration table associates a particular pointer operation (moving the pointer over a menu button) with a particular user selectable operation to be performed on the menu (activating the menu button). Thus, when the user moves the pointer over the menu button, the menu button is activated.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach a configuration table for a drop down menu where pointer operations are associated with user-selectable operation modes of the drop down menu that correspond to the pointer operations. More particularly, the cited references do not teach associating the movement of a

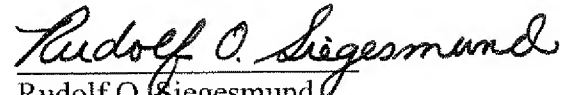
pointer over a menu button with activation of that menu button. The Examiner states that Bauersfeld 5:60-65 teaches “pointer-over mode.” Office Action p. 5. However, Bauersfeld does not teach “activating a menu button” being the user selectable operation mode that is associated with “pointer-over.” Bauersfeld 5:60-65 teaches providing “borderless button feedback” in response to “mouse-over,” but this is not the same as activating a menu button. This is a significant difference because the present invention makes the use of drop down menus more efficient by eliminating user actions, such as clicking, that were previously required to use drop down menus. Bauersfeld, either alone or in combination with the other cited references, does not provide this functionality.

In summary, the cited references do not teach a configuration table for a drop down menu whereby a user can associate selectable operation modes (such as menu button activation) with particular pointer operations (such as pointer-over). For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 and 20, and all claims depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Rudolf O. Siegesmund
Registration No. 37,720
Gordon & Rees LLP
Suite 2800
2100 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75201
214-231-4660
214-461-4053 (fax)
rsiegesmund@gordonrees.com